

Equality Impact Assessment- Stage 2 Template

Table 1: Defining the Policy

Title of Policy:	Budget Proposals 2018/19 – Stop provision of services within Alva, Clackmannan, Dollar, Dumyat, Sauchie and Tullibody Community Access Points
Service:	Strategy & Customer Services
Team:	Customer Services
What is the purpose of the proposed policy or changes to established policy?	
<p>Council departments tasked with setting balanced budget and savings of £13m in 2018/19 are required, therefore the purpose of this proposal is work collectively across services to meet this target.</p> <p>To reduce operating costs of our Community Access Points to reflect a general decline in user demand and also to contribute to a sustainable budget position.</p>	
Who is affected by the policy or who is intended to benefit from the proposed policy and how?	
<p>Reduction in the number of Community Access points from 8 to 2 will mean that users in 6 communities will need to travel further to access services, such as book borrowing, free IT facilities or discuss general council enquiries.</p> <p>Council payments will still be able to be taken at Speirs Centre, Ben Cleuch Centre and also made within local communities (paypoint). Other services such as information or bookings can be done on-line or over the phone. Other options will be available for some – ebooks.</p> <p>Given the broad range of services provided within the Community Access Points, it is likely that it will affect all current and any potential users of the service.</p> <p>The Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals in Scotland have stated that this proposals would mean that Clackmannanshire would have the lowest library provision per head of population in Scotland.</p>	

How have you, or will you, put the policy into practice? Who will be responsible for delivering it?

If approved, implementation will be the responsibility of the Customer Services Manager.

Table 2

In the Stage 1 Screening you identified that the policy will impact on one or more of the protected characteristics.

What information do you have that tell you how this policy might have an impact.
Key Questions:

- Will the impact of the proposed policy/function be the same or different for each group identified.
- Is there any indication or evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake of services by different groups?
- Are there any groups of people who are not taking up services?

Protected Characteristic	What Evidence do you have and Consultation has been undertaken
Disability	<p>Speirs Centre and Ben Cleuch Centre can provide modern, integrated facilities offering a wide range of services. Better aligned with demand and a good access to payment and online services will improve the overall uptake of services and ensure overall sustainability.</p> <p>Users will have to travel further to access services.</p> <p>Greater impact may be placed on Housebound Services offered by the Library Service as this service will remain– it may place greater pressure onto the voluntary services which ultimately deliver this service.</p> <p>Usage of these services is declining generally as lifestyle preferences change.</p> <p>Clackmannanshire wide consultation to take place led by CTSI targeting the protected characteristics affected by these options. 1250 responded to the consultation, with 11% of respondents indicating they had a disability. 5 well attended public engagement events were also held.</p>

Age	<p>Speirs Centre and Ben Cleuch Centre can provide modern, integrated facilities offering a wide range of services. Better aligned with demand and a good access to payment and online services will improve the overall uptake of services and ensure overall sustainability.</p> <p>Greater impact on new parents and toddlers as there will be the withdrawal of local bookbug sessions with these closures. The sessions are seen as good enablers for parents to communicate with other parents within local communities.</p> <p>Usage of these services is low and declining generally as lifestyle preferences change.</p> <p>Clackmannanshire wide consultation to take place led by CTSI targeting the protected characteristics affected by these options. 1250 responded to the consultation, with 7% of respondents indicating they were under 18, and 30% indicating they were over the age of 50. Comments from throughout the consultation indicate significant representations made on behalf of children and older people. 5 well attended public engagement events were also held.</p>

Table 3: What is the impact on the protected characteristics identified?(see Step 3 of guidelines)

Protected Characteristic	Impact (H,M,L or U)*	Description of Impact
Disability	M	<p>Reduction in services will impact on the elderly or disabled groups, particularly in accessing physical services such as book borrowing and IT resources, particularly where public transport is considered an issue. Cost of transport was cited as a barrier to access.</p> <p>A number of responses indicated that it may inhibit their ability to conduct job searches or use Universal Credit Online.</p> <p>The elderly, disabled, those with no PC access or lacking in digital skills and those who can not afford to travel to either Alloa or Tillicoultry will be mostly affected by these proposals. These measures could increase the levels of isolation experienced by the most vulnerable members of the community.</p>

Age	M	<p>Reduction in services will impact on the elderly or younger groups, particularly in accessing physical services such as book borrowing and IT resources, particularly where public transport is considered an issue. Access to Bookbug Clubs for the very young was cited frequently as a barrier that may impact on learning and attainment.</p> <p>The elderly, disabled, those with no PC access or lacking in digital skills and those who can not afford to travel to either Alloa or Tillicoultry will be mostly affected by these proposals. These measures could increase the levels of isolation experienced by the most vulnerable members of the community.</p>

Table 4: Does the policy need to be changed?(see step 4 of Guidelines)

Are there any changes?		
Protected Characteristic		Description
Disability	Yes	<p>If affordability allows, a review of proposed cessation of the C1 and C2 services may assist with transport for some individuals where this may be a barrier to access.</p> <p>If affordability allows, reducing the number of CAP closures from 6 to 5 or 4 may mitigate impacts to some extent, with more residents having less distance to travel.</p> <p>If affordability allows, consider ways to put online services and community library services in existing community facilities.</p>

Age	Yes	<p>If affordability allows, a review of proposed cessation of the C1 and C2 services may assist with transport for some individuals where this may be a barrier to access.</p> <p>If affordability allows, reducing the number of CAP closures from 6 to 5 or 4 may mitigate impacts to some extent, with more residents having less distance to travel.</p> <p>If affordability allows, consider ways to put online services and community library services in existing community facilities.</p>
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Approved by:

Name (Head of Service)	S Crickmar
Date	5 February 2018